

and women who truly believe that ours is still the nation of opportunity. I shall do my best to deserve your trust and faith and earn the confidence of those I shall serve.

I want to especially thank my dear husband, Stanley; my mother; my father; all of my children—my entire family—for sticking by me all these years. And there have been ups, and there have been downs, but I know they will be with me again as we embark on this new and exciting journey.

Mr. President, I thank you very much for making this all possible.

The President. Thank you all very much for coming. And again to the family, our

respects; I'm delighted. And I didn't pay my respects to Justice O'Connor—which is an oversight of enormous proportions—[laughter]—but I know Pat and I are both just honored that she would be here for this special occasion. Thank you, Sandra.

All rise, thank you all.

Note: The President spoke at 2:17 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In the ceremony, the following persons were referred to: Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin; Sandra Day O'Connor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; and John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff to the President.

Statement on Signing the Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1991

April 10, 1991

Today I have signed H.R. 1282, the “Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1991.”

I am pleased that the Congress has acted quickly to provide funds to pay the costs of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In providing this funding, H.R. 1282 recognizes the significant commitment of our coalition partners to help in defraying the costs associated with the crisis in the Middle East.

I am concerned, however, about certain provisions of this Act that constitute excessive micromanagement of security assistance, defense, and foreign policy. These provisions could hinder our ability to work with Desert Storm allies and friends in several ways and make our efforts to establish security and stability in the postwar Middle East even more difficult.

Section 107(f) requires that the President notify the Congress of the proposed storage of certain equipment, supplies, or material in a prepositioned status for use by the U.S. Armed Forces. I will interpret this provision in a manner consistent with my constitutional authority as Commander in Chief. In addition, section 107(g) requires that a report be provided to certain congressional

committees on “all enemy equipment falling under the control . . . of allied forces within the Desert Storm theater of operations.” To the extent that providing such a report requires the acquisition of information from another country, I will interpret this provision in a manner consistent with my constitutional authority to conduct our Nation's foreign affairs.

Section 108 requires a report to the Congress on “any arrangement for a United States military presence that has been made or is expected to be made to the government of any country in the Middle East.” I will also interpret this provision consistent with my constitutional authority regarding the conduct of foreign affairs.

Section 109 prohibits the use of funds—provided by this Act or any other legislation—for military sales and financing programs with any country that has not fulfilled its commitment to contribute resources to defray the costs of Operation Desert Storm. I will interpret section 109 as prohibiting such transactions if the countries concerned have not fulfilled any specific commitments made to the United States in a reasonable time and manner.

GEORGE BUSH

Apr. 10 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

The White House,
April 10, 1991.

*Note: H.R. 1282, approved April 10, was
assigned Public Law No. 102-28.*

Nomination of John E. Bennett To Be United States Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea

April 10, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate John E. Bennett, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. He would succeed Chester E. Norris, Jr.

Since 1987 Mr. Bennett has served as consul general at the U.S. consulate in Monterrey, Mexico. Prior to this Mr. Bennett studied at the National Defense University, 1986-1987. In addition, he has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, 1983-1986; consul general at the U.S. Embassy

in Lagos, Nigeria, 1979-1983; and consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico, 1978-1979. Mr. Bennett served as a political analyst at the Department of State, 1976-1977; a consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Bremen, Germany, 1973-1976; and a consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, 1972-1973. He joined the Foreign Service in 1971.

Mr. Bennett graduated from Harvard University (B.A., 1970). Mr. Bennett was born June 4, 1941, in Atlan, British Columbia, Canada. He served in the U.S. Army, 1965-1969. Mr. Bennett is married, has two children, and resides in Belfair, WA.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Delors of the European Community Commission and President Jacques Santer of the European Council of Ministers

April 11, 1991

President Bush. You're not going to need these because this is a photo opportunity. *[Laughter]*

Q. Mr. President, do you support a safe haven for the Kurdish refugees?

Q. Haven't you, in effect, sir, created an enclave there by telling Iraq you will shoot down any planes that threaten the refugees?

President Bush. Photo opportunity.

I think our distinguished guests are going to have a press conference later on. I'll have a little something to say on this subject in a bit, too. But the main thing we want to do is welcome these European leaders here. The United States values its relationship with the EC—and of course, on a bilateral basis we have a wonderful relationship with Prime Minister Santer and his country,

and the same for Jacques Delors when he's wearing a French hat, which is very seldom these days. We've got a great, cooperative relationship with the EC and with individual countries in Europe, and that's what this meeting is about, to put the emphasis on the EC.

Iraqi Refugees

Q. Well, you are going to discuss the Kurdish refugees?

President Bush. Absolutely. We'll be discussing that and a wide array of other questions. And I'm very pleased with the enormous cooperative refugee program now underway. It is tremendous. The suffering there is enormous. And the United States is